

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
IO-13 /072 W
-----126788 231043Z /16

R 230704Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8175
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1094

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PGOV BG
SUBJECT: NEW POLITICAL PARTY APPROVED; CONVENING COMMITTEE FORMED

REF: A. DACCA 0821, B. DACCA 0787

1. THE JATIYABADI GANOTANTRIC DAL NATIONALIST DEMOCRATIC PARTY), THE POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTING PRESIDENT ZIA, WAS GIVEN OFFICIAL APPROVAL FEB. 22. THE PARTY DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL UNDER THE POLITICAL PARTIES REGULATION (PPR) FEB. 7 (REF A).

2. FOLLOWING THE APPROVAL, A SIXTEEN-MEMBER CONVENING COMMITTEE WAS ANNOUNCED BY PARTY CONVENER VICE PRESIDENT SATTAR. OF THE SIXTEEN, TEN MEMBERS ARE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS:

SYED ALI AHSAN (EDUCATION)
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SHAMSHUL HUDA CHOWDHURY (INFORMATION & BROADCASTING)
ABDUL MOMEN KHAN (FOOD)
SAIFUR RAHMAN (COMMERCE)
JAMALUDDIN ADMED (INDUSTRIES)
M.R. KHAN (FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK)
NURAL HUQ (PORTS, SHIPPING AND INLAND WATER TRANSPORT)
ENAYETULLAH KHAN (LAND ADMINISTRATION & REFORM)

MOUDUD AHMED (TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH)
ZAKARIA CHOUDHURY (MANPOWER, LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE)
THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE INCLUDE DACCA MUNICIPAL
CHAIRMAN ABDUL HASNAT; M.A. HUQ, A RETIRED DEPUTY
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE; SUJAT ALI, A FORMER M.P.
FROM COMILLA; AND MESSERS A. QUASHEN AND HAJEE MONSUR
ALI, FORMER FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

3. THE CONVENING COMMITTEE INCLUDES MOST OF THE NAMES
HEARD RECENTLY IN THE DACCA RUMOR MILL (REF B) EXCEPT
THAT BRIG. NURAL ISLAM "SHISHU" IS NOT ON THE LIST,
PERHAPS INDICATING THAT STAR'S DECLINE. AS EXPECTED, THE
"POLITICAL" PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS PREDOMINATE AND ARE
NOT BALANCED BY ANY EXPERIENCED POLITICAL ORGANIZERS.
ENAYETULLAH KHAN, THAT PERIPATETIC AND LOQUACIOUS ADVISOR,
TOLD POLOFF FEB. 20 THAT ORGANIZERS WOULD BE "UNNECESSARY;"
ZIA WOULD "GO IN FOR " A MASS MOVEMENT INSTEAD, PROVIDED
INTERNAL BICKERING AMONG THE ADVISORS OVER PARTY
STRATEGY COULD BE RECONCILED. FOR THE MOMENT, ZIA
IS INFORMED BY RELAY ON THESE ADVISORS, AS HE HAS BEEN
UNABLE TO ATTRACT SEASONED ORGANIZERS, WHO PREFER
TO GAUGE ZIA'S POPULAR APPEAL ON THE STUMP BEFORE MAKING
A COMMITMENT.

4. AMONG THOSE ORGANIZERS WHO COULD HAVE BEEN OF USE TO
ZIA WERE SOME OF THE OLD DEMOCRATIC LEAGUERS, BUT IT
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APPEARS THAT ZIA'S BRIEF FLIRTATION WITH KHANDAKAR
MUSHTAQUE AHMED AND HIS SUPPORTERS HAS ENDED IN STALEMATE.
IT MAY BE THAT ZIA FOR THE MOMENT HAS DECIDED THAT IT
IS BETTER TO KEEP MUSHTAQUE IN DETENTION WHILE THE
POLITICAL CLIMATE REMAINS UNCERTAIN, BUT IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE
THAT MUSHTAQUE LINGERS IN DACCA GENERAL JAIL,
WHERE HE HAD BEEN MOVED TO FACILITATE HIS NEGOTIATIONS
(BY PROXY) WITH ZIA.

5. AS HIS BIRTY'S APPROVAL WAS ANNOUNCED IN DACCA, ZIA
BEGAN A FIVE-DAY TOUR OF CHITTAGONG DISTRICT. IT IS
UNUSUAL FOR ZIA TO BE ABSENT FROM DACCA MORE THAN ONE
DAY AT A TIME, BUT PERHAPS ZIA HAS DECIDED THAT THE
HOUR HAS COME TO TEST THE POLITICAL WATERS MORE
EXTENSIVELY.
BERGESEN

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NNN

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